

Graduate School

### Graduate School Board, 2023-11-28

#### In attendance

##### *Board members*

Lena Karlsson	Director of Studies, Graduate School
Catia Gregoratti	Program Director, Global Studies
Christopher Swader	Program Director, Social Scientific Data Analysis
Mikhail Martynovich	Human Geography
Angela Kinyanjui	Student representative, Development Studies
Marta Kolankiewicz	Program Director, Social Studies of Gender
Leysan Storie	Program Director, Middle Eastern Studies
Terese Anving	Gender Studies
Mimmi Barmark	Sociology
Leili Laanemets	School of Social Work

##### *Other*

Lucie Larssonova	Graduate School, Secretary in the Board
Ida Nafstad	Sociology of Law
Helen Wiman	Graduate School, Administrative team leader
Katherine Ahlstedt	Graduate School
Yağmur Yilmaz	Graduate School
Daniela Dolenc	Graduate School
Frank Schreier	Graduate School

#### Absent

Anne Jerneck	Program Director, Development Studies
Rikard Gustavsson	Political Science
Anna Sonander	Sociology of Law
Student representative	
Student representative	
Student representative	
Student representative	

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§ Decision item

**1. Meeting opens**

Meeting opens at 13.15.

**2. Election of a Board member to check the minutes**

**The Board decides** to elect Mimmi Barmark to, together with the Chair, check the minutes.

**3. Confirmation of the agenda**

**The Board decides** to confirm the agenda with the addition of course literature change on the course SIMM35.

**4. Minutes from the Graduate School Board meeting September 29, 2023**

Minutes from the meeting 29 September 2023 are confirmed.

**5. Information from the student representatives**

Angela updates the Board on several items:

- Upon speaking with the first-year students, students from SASDA would really like to have the opportunity to do a full-term, 30 credit internship during the third term, as finding a 15-credit/half-term internship is proving difficult. Lena says that the SASDA program syllabus has just been revised and will allow for a more flexible third term, including the possibility of a 30 credit internship; however, this change will not come into effect until autumn 2024. Christopher further states that he will assist current SASDA students in finding internship opportunities by connecting them to second-year students.
- Students in the SASME program have reported that they do not have enough exchange placements, which limits their third term options. Leysan responds that the number of placements has been extended by allowing SASME students the opportunity to study abroad outside of the Middle East, so this problem has now been resolved.
- Second-year students report that they would appreciate being appointed their thesis supervisors at an earlier stage, especially for those students who will be doing fieldwork. Lena explains that it can be difficult to connect students to their supervisors because the departments have different structures, but she will raise the question to the departments' director of studies once again. Mikhail mentions that, from their department's perspective, it would also be beneficial to be connected to the students they will be supervising at an earlier stage, while Mimmi says it would be difficult due to research funding allocation and their planning timeline, knowing which teachers will be available, but they could try.

**6. Information from Graduate School**

Lena updates the Board on several items:

- *Autumn methods courses:* Teaching-wise, we are in the middle of introducing the re-worked SIMM51 (SIMM52+ courses) which has been an effort to make the autumn methods courses more specialized and geared towards our programs. We think it's worked well so far but we're of course waiting for the student evaluations to get proper feedback.
- *Budget:* Lena, Helen and the economists are in the midst of finalizing the 2024 budget. Like many other departments, Graduate School is facing increasing overhead costs without more coming in. Even with cuts and savings, it's not visible in the budget so far so we do need to continue working on the budget in the months ahead (for future fiscal years). The Board will be kept updated in terms of the budget as we will have several years ahead where we'll need to be more careful with the hours and the costs.
- *Course planning:* Going forward, Graduate School aims to have only one cycle of planning, to align our planning with that of the departments. In October 2024, our goal is to have the whole of 2025 planned.

## 7. **Equality, Diversity and Equal Opportunity**

Catia brings up the question of Graduate School working more with policies and routines as they relate to harassment and discrimination, suggesting the possibility of bringing more information about this up already at Program Introduction Day (PID).

Lena states that this is a very good idea and that there is a code of conduct currently being developed by the faculty. She will expand on this point at PID and make sure we have sufficient information available to students, and make sure that our routines and how we act upon any notice of discrimination and harassment is readily available.

Chris mentions the classroom culture document, which is still available on Canvas for both students and staff.

Lena will make a few suggestions and we can talk about it later in the spring, either at the Board meeting or with the program directors directly. More work with routines and policies surrounding harassment and discrimination to come.

## 9. **Establishment of Graduate School examiners, spring 2024**

Appendix §9

- The establishment of Graduate School examiners, spring 2024, was approved.

## 10. **Changes in course literature**

Appendix §10 a-d

- The Board approves the following course syllabus changes:
  - SIMP28 *Social Sciences: Critical Feminist Perspectives in Social Theory*, spring 2024
  - SIMP46 *Middle Eastern Studies: Theory and Society*, spring 2024
  - SIMM56 *Process Tracing*, spring 2024
  - SIMM35 *Social Sciences: Digital Ethnography*, spring 2024

## 11. **Next meeting**

February, April, and June: Lucie will send out a Doodle.

**12. Other questions**

No other questions.

**13. Meeting closes**

Meeting closes at 14.00

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